The Middleburry Campus

Since 1905

Vol. CXIX, No. 14 | March 4, 2021 | middleburycampus.com

Jack Langerman '19.5 memorialized through creation of Sports Innovation Lab internship

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY TISSENBAUM

Jack Langerman (back left) spent two summers working at the Sports Innovation Lab, a sports marketing analytics startup that has now created an internship in his honor.

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
News Editor

After Jack Langerman's death on Jan. 17, his former co-workers at Sports Innovation Lab gathered on Zoom to grieve and share memories: the days when the company president teased him for having a worse throwing arm than "the old man," the time Jack ran out and bought Pop-Tarts for a distraught friend, and the fact that he was so proud of working for the company that he helped recruit another Middlebury student after he left.

Through the tears and laughter, a plan began to emerge to honor his legacy and keep his memory alive at the company and at Middlebury.

The Sports Innovation Lab, in collaboration with the Center for Careers and Internships (CCI) and the Langerman family, created the Jack Langerman Internship. The internship will accept one Middlebury student each summer for a 10-week paid position at the sports marketing analytics startup where Jack worked during the summers of 2018 and 2019. In the two weeks the application was open, 30 students applied for the summer 2021 position.

The partnership with the CCI only officially extends over the next three years, but Sports Innovation Lab president and co-founder Josh Walker '96.5 hopes that the position will continue long past then.

"Selfish[ly], we're trying to just keep him," Walker said. "Now we have a tool to make sure that future Middlebury students say his name and know why they're [at the company]. It'll make us remember Jack every year and keep him a part of our companycause] I don't want

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LOCAL

Middlebury Ski Patrol among first students to receive Covid-19 vaccinations

By IDEAL DOWLING
Local Editor

Members of the Middlebury Ski Patrol, a powder-loving team of first responders that monitors the Snow Bowl each ski season, were among the college's first students to receive a Covid-19 vaccination in Vermont. As a state-licensed First Response Unit, the ski patrollers received the first round of shots in early winter under the state's 1a phase of vaccine distribution.

Ski Patrol is responsible for hazard marking and mitigation, search and rescue operations, emergency medical services (EMS) and the consistent monitoring of all trails during open hours at both the Snow Bowl and Rikert Nordic Center. While many patrollers are in an age group statistically less vulnerable to Covid-19 compared to other members of the community, the high risk of exposure posed by their job was a motivating factor to accept a vaccination — especially due to the higher chance of unknowingly spreading the disease.

"The thought definitely occurred to me that I wished I could give my dose of the vaccine to someone that is more vulnerable to having severe symptoms," patrol staffer Michael

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COURTESY OF MASON OLMSTEAD

Ski Patrol staffers at the Snow Bowl pelt their senior members with snowballs as they ride up the lift on their last day, a Ski Patrol tradition.

LOCAL

At Town Meeting, Retail cannabis prevails and Middlebury ratifies Ripton's withdrawal from ACSD

By LUCY TOWNEND & JACK SUMMERSBY
Senior Local Editor & Local Editor

All articles were approved at Middlebury's Town Meeting on March 2nd, including a provision allowing retail cannabis stores in Middlebury and a victory for Middlebury Residential Director Esther Thomas. The articles were approved by Australian ballot instead of by the typical voice-vote due to the rising prevalence of Covid-19.

"My fellow Middlebury residents spoke loud and clear at the polls today, welcoming the downtown economic development boost and public safety benefits that regulated cannabis retailers will bring to our town," High Bailiff David Silberman said.

Silberman was a leader in the Vote Yes Movement, which advocated for Middlebury to opt-in to retail cannabis stores as part of Vermont's Act 164. The measure, Article 3 on the ballot, was approved 951–546.

The ballot also included a vote to ratify Ripton's decision to withdraw from the Addison Central School District (ACSD) to create its own independent school district. This measure passed in all six ACSD towns — including Middlebury — meaning that the withdrawal will now be considered by the State Board of Education.

Ripton resident Amy McGlashan, who serves as a director at the Middlebury Center for Careers & Internships, was a leading voice against

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SPORTS

COURTESY OF MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

Colby Morris '19, a star pitcher at Middlebury College, signed with the New York Mets organization in January.

COLBY MORRIS '19 SIGNS MINOR LEAGUE CONTRACT WITH THE NEW YORK METS

By SAM LIPIN
Contributing Writer

"I'm not going to give up until I get signed."

Former Middlebury pitcher Colby Morris '19 was not satisfied with ending his baseball career with an 8-3 defeat to Tufts in the NESCAC Championship. Instead, he was resolute on taking his career to the next level, with the MLB as his ultimate goal.

The pitcher got one step closer to realizing that goal in January, signing a minor league contract with the New York Mets organization. Less than two years after his graduation, Morris had catapulted himself from the NESCAC to the minor leagues, becoming the first Panther to sign with an MLB organization since Michael Joseph '13 (Baltimore Orioles, minor league).

It's an achievement that follows a distinguished collegiate career punctuated by countless accolades. The 2018 NESCAC Pitcher of the Year has the most career wins (18), innings pitched (256) and career starts (39) in Middlebury history and ranks second all-time in strikeouts (174).

The achievement also follows a period of less glamorous work in the lower divisions, including time with the Trois-Rivieres Aigles (Canadian-American Association) and the Milwaukee Milkmen (American Association). During his time in the minor leagues, Morris struggled to find consistent minutes or stability, but his aspirations didn't falter.

Morris also spent time with Driveline, a player development organization in Washington that uses advanced metrics to maximize their players' potential.

"When I went there, I had plateaued with velocity for a while at 89–92 (mph), but I guess the movement has changed," Morris told The Campus. "You never want to be average with anything. With technologies that exist now like Rapsodo and Trackman, you can measure the spin rate and how the ball is moving. So, despite plateauing in velocity, I made my movement stand out as much as I could."

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OPINION

Supporting staff means supporting fair wages

By TIM PARSONS

Tayler* started working full time at Middlebury right after high school, with a starting wage of just over $8 an hour. Twenty-one years later, through Middlebury's compensation program, they are making $14 an hour. A single parent, they find themselves in line at the local food bank several times a month to make ends meet, and HOPE Middlebury helps Christmas come together for their child. Many of Tayler's fellow service workers at Middlebury also have second jobs, an option unavailable to those without childcare or other support mechanisms.

How did we get here as an institution, where over 20 years of service and dedication to Middlebury still merits only a poverty wage? Sure, endowment woes and a poor job market play a role, but one of the deeper problems is more insidious.

In the last 20 years, Middlebury has prioritized faculty wage increases over those of staff. Every year, when possible, a sum of money is added to the Middlebury budget for salary increases, which is then distributed to faculty and staff as a percentage increase of their current wage. By my calculations, in most years, rather than dividing wage increases equally between faculty and staff, faculty have gotten a larger percentage increase than staff. In

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DINING STAFF WORK OVERTIME AS STUDENTS ARRIVE TO CAMPUS

By ROYA TOURAN
Senior News Writer

Every Middlebury student who arrived on campus last week found a bag stuffed with snacks, beverages and non-perishable treats in their room. These bags, along with the packaged meals delivered during the first few days of campus quarantine, were the product of the hard work of Middlebury's dining staff — some of whom worked overtime or more than seven days in a row — to feed students during their arrival room quarantine.

Staff were tasked with cooking food, assembling bags and boxes in Nelson Recreation Center, loading food onto trucks and delivering the meals to dorms.

"For us as cooks and service employees, it was just a matter of showing up when and where we were told to," Atwater Cook Patricia McCaffrey said. "I can only liken it to a military operation on a certain level. We were broken down into small teams, likely with people you haven't worked with before, and given a task to accomplish."

McCaffrey worked nine days in a row and worked overtime on three of those days. Ross Cook Starrin Ricupero worked 12 days in a row, with about half of them exceeding the usual eight-hour workday. But the dining staff had anticipated these long hours.

"They let us know in advance that we might be having a long stretch and that we might be having a few long days that are more than eight hours," Ricupero said.

Staff members received overtime

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NEWS

Students reevaluate study abroad plans one year into the pandemic
By CHARLIE KEOHANE

Board of Trustees approves tuition hike, takes steps toward balanced budget
By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES

JusticeProjects raises $144,000 for student social justice initiatives
By LILY JONES

LOCAL

Students work with community to create Eat Local VT, new app for sourcing local foods
By ACADIA KLEPEIS

College Residential Director Esther Thomas elected to Middlebury selectboard
By MANYA KULA

ARTS & CULTURE

Daylight Zine sheds light on the power of art in a pandemic
By OLIVIA MUELLER

A film critic's 10 favorite films of 2020
By JOHN VAALER

Trevor Noah talks comedy and culture with Middlebury
By YARDENA CARMI

Direct Your Attention: Fleabag's unreliable narration
By OWEN MASON-HILL

OPINION

Welcome home, baby Febs
By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

MASK OFF, MIDD: Your first weekend when things were normal
By MARIA KAOURIS

It's time for Middlebury to open the books
By MIDD OPEN THE BOOKS

SPORTS

Siefer's Scoop Episode 11: Jordyn Johnson
By BLAISE SIEFER

Michael McCormack '20 joins UVM lacrosse for final year of NCAA eligibility
By BLAISE SIEFER